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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/721,957	VDAYGIRI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	LIN LIU	2445	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2009.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-44 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3, 6-44 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to communications filed on 02/23/2009.

Claims 1-3 and 6-44 are pending and have been examined.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-12, 14-16, 23-25, 33, 35-36 and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pizano et al (Patent no.: US 6,105,055)** in view of **Zhu et al. (PGPUB: US 2003/0182375 A1)**.

With respect to **claim 1**, Pizano teaches a method for multimedia collaboration between a plurality of users including a host of a collaboration event, comprising the steps of:

storing a user interface in a memory location commonly accessible to said users (Pizano: fig. 1, col. 2, lines 32-60);  
selecting a source document using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 7-16);  
selecting a page from the selected source document using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 7-16);  
adding an annotation to a designated part of each of the selected pages using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 17-26); and  
combining the annotated pages into a collaboration document using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 27-67).

However, Pizano does not explicitly teach a method of selecting a plurality of source documents using the user interface for multimedia collaboration between a plurality of users.

In the same field of endeavor, Zhu teaches a method of selecting a plurality of source documents using the user interface for multimedia collaboration between a plurality of users (Zhu: page 3, paragraph 72, page 4, paragraph 84 and page 5, paragraphs 93, noted the conversion module that is capable of converting the shared document into a Rich Multi-media format for the plurality of users).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of selecting and converting a plurality of source documents into a Rich Multi-media format for the plurality of users as taught by Zhu in Pizano's invention in order to enable a plurality of users to collaborate the various different types of documents (Zhu: page 1, paragraphs 8-9).

With respect to **claim 2**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 1, wherein said adding the annotation comprises adding a voice annotations or textual annotation (Pizano: abstract).

However, Pizano does not explicitly teach a method of adding highlights to specific regions.

In the same field of endeavor, Zhu teaches a method of adding highlights to specific regions (Zhu: page 13, Table 9, noted the Highlighter Tool).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method adding highlights to specific regions as taught by Zhu in Pizano's invention in order to add more features to allow the conference administrator in expressing his/her ideas with regard to the content of the document.

With respect to **claim 3**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 2, wherein said adding the annotation comprises adding one of dynamic and static annotations (Pizano: col. 2, lines 61-66).

With respect to **claim 6**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 1, wherein said adding the annotation comprises a adding a video file (Pizano: col. 4, lines 17-26).

With respect to **claim 7**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 1, wherein said adding annotation comprises adding a video clip (Pizano: col. 4, lines 17-26).

With respect to **claim 8**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 7, wherein said adding a video clip comprises selecting said video clip from a stored video file (Pizano: col. 4, lines 17-26).

With respect to **claim 9**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 8, wherein said adding a video clip comprises adding hyperlinks to said video clip (Pizano: col. 4, lines 17-54).

With respect to **claim 10**, Pizano teaches all of the claimed limitations, except that he does not explicitly teach a method of adding the annotations using browser based controls.

In the same field of endeavor, Zhu teaches a method of adding the annotations using browser based controls (Zhu: page 11, paragraph 191).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of adding the annotations using browser based controls as taught by Zhu in Pizano's invention in order to effectively collaborate over long distances regardless of their location without the need to install extra software.

With respect to **claim 11**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

storing said collaboration document in said memory location commonly accessible to said users (Pizano: fig. 1 & 4, col. 4, lines 17-54); and  
sharing retrieval address information for said collaboration document with said users (Pizano: col. 4, line 55 to col. 5, line 25).

With respect to **claim 12**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 1, wherein said storing a user interface comprises sending said interface to one of: a Sharepoint content management system, an Interwoven content management system, file systems on different servers (Pizano: fig. 4, col. 4, lines 27-54), or a local file system.

With respect to **claim 14**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 11, further comprising categorizing said collaboration document (Pizano: col. 4, lines 27-54).

With respect to **claim 15**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 1, wherein said collaboration document is further annotated using e-mail (Pizano: col. 4, lines 27-37).

With respect to **claim 16**, Pizano teaches the method or multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 1, wherein said collaboration document is further annotated utilizing rich multimedia messaging (Pizano: col. 4, lines 27-37).

With respect to **claim 23**, Pizano teaches a method for multimedia collaboration between a plurality of users including a host of a collaboration event, comprising the steps of:

storing a user interface in a memory location commonly accessible to said users (Pizano: fig. 1, col. 2, lines 32-60);

selecting a source document using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 7-16);

selecting a page from the selected source document using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 7-16);

adding an annotation to a designated part of each of the selected pages using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 17-26);

combining the annotated pages into a collaboration document using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 27-67);

storing said collaboration document in said memory location commonly accessible to said users (Pizano: fig. 1 & 4, col. 4, lines 17-54);

sharing retrieval address information for said collaboration document with said users (Pizano: col. 4, line 55 to col. 5, line 25);

making and locally storing further annotations to said collaboration document; and selectively sending at a desired time said further annotations to said collaboration document in said memory location commonly accessible to said users (Pizano: fig. 1 & 4, col. 4, lines 17-54).

However, Pizano does not explicitly teach a method of selecting a plurality of source documents using the user interface for multimedia collaboration between a plurality of users.

In the same field of endeavor, Zhu teaches a method of selecting a plurality of source documents using the user interface for multimedia collaboration between a plurality of users (Zhu: page 3, paragraph 72, page 4, paragraph 84 and page 5, paragraphs 93, noted the conversion module that is capable of converting the shared document into a Rich Multi-media format for the plurality of users).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of selecting and converting a

plurality of source documents into a Rich Multi-media format for the plurality of users as taught by Zhu in Pizano's invention in order to enable a plurality of users to collaborate the various different types of documents (Zhu: page 1, paragraphs 8-9).

In regard to **claim 24** the limitations of this claim are substantially the same as those in claim 2. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claim 2 is used to reject claim 24. By this rationale **claim 24** is rejected.

In regard to **claim 25** the limitations of this claim are substantially the same as those in claim 10. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claim 10 is used to reject claim 25. By this rationale **claim 25** is rejected.

In regard to **claim 33** the limitations of this claim are substantially the same as those in claim 1. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claim 1 is used to reject claim 33. By this rationale **claim 33** is rejected.

In regard to **claim 35** the limitations of this claim are substantially the same as those in claim 23. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claim 23 is used to reject claim 35. By this rationale **claim 35** is rejected.

In regard to **claim 36** the limitations of this claim are substantially the same as those in claim 23. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claim 23 is used to reject claim 36. Furthermore, Pizano also teaches the limitations: "selecting a collaboration mode for said collaboration event respecting said collaboration document, wherein said collaboration mode comprises any of said offline, near real time, real time, and disconnected modes" (Pizano: col. 3 line 29 to col. 4 line 6).

With respect to **claim 43**, Pizano teaches all of the claimed limitations, except that he does not explicitly teach a method wherein the plurality of source documents include at least two source documents of different data formats.

In the same field of endeavor, Zhu teaches a method wherein the plurality of source documents include at least two source documents of different data formats (Zhu: page 3, paragraph 72, page 4, paragraph 84 and page 5, paragraphs 93).

With respect to **claim 44**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 1, further comprising sending a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) linked to the collaboration document to at least one of the plurality of users using the user interface, wherein selection of the received URL by the user, enables the user to access the collaboration document using a local web browser (Pizano: col. 4, line 27 to col. 5 line 25, noted that the URL points to the location at which the actual annotation is stored, and the user retrieves and downloads the message with the browser).

5. Claims 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pizano et al (Patent no.: US 6,105,055)** in view of **Zhu et al. (PGPUB: US 2003/0182375 A1)** and **Johnson et al. (PGPUB: US 2003/0023679 A1)**.

With respect to **claim 13**, the combined method of Pizano-Zhu teaches all of the claimed limitations, except that they do not explicitly teach a method of sharing retrieval address information comprises sending retrieval address information by e-mail.

In the same field of endeavor, Johnson teaches a method of sharing retrieval address information comprises sending retrieval address information by e-mail. (Johnson: page 5, paragraph 63 and page 6, paragraph 71).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of sending retrieval address information by e-mail as taught by Johnson in the combined method of Pizano-Zhu's invention in order to implement a cost effective system and since the method of using e-mail for communication is very common and well known.

6. Claims 17-22, 26-32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pizano et al. (Patent no.: US 6,105,055)** in view of **Zhu et al. (PGPUB: US 2003/0182375 A1)** and **Ludwig et al. (Patent no.: US 6,437,818 B1)**.

With respect to **claim 17**, Pizano teaches a method for multimedia collaboration between a plurality of users of a collaboration event, comprising the steps of:

storing a user interface in a memory location commonly accessible to said users (Pizano: fig. 1, col. 2, lines 32-60);

selecting a source document using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 7-16);

selecting a page from each of the selected source documents using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 7-16);

adding an annotation to a designated part of each of the selected pages using the user interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 17-26);

combining the annotated pages into a collaboration document using the interface (Pizano: col. 4, lines 27-67);

storing said collaboration document in said memory location commonly accessible to said users (Pizano: fig. 1 & 4, col. 4, lines 17-54);

establishing a messaging conference amongst said plurality of users (Pizano: col. 3, line 29 to col. 4 line 6); and

selectively making and locally storing further annotations to said collaboration document by sending further annotations for selected pages of the collaboration document through messages during the messaging conference (Pizano: col. 4, line 27 to col. 5 line 14).

However, Pizano does not explicitly teach a method of selecting a plurality of source documents using the user interface for multimedia collaboration between a plurality of users; and establishing an instant conferencing communication amongst plurality of users.

In the same field of endeavor, Zhu teaches a method of selecting a plurality of source documents using the user interface for multimedia collaboration between a plurality of users (Zhu: page 3, paragraph 72, page 4, paragraph 84 and page 5, paragraphs 93, noted the conversion module that is capable of converting the shared document into a Rich Multi-media format for the plurality of users).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of selecting and converting a plurality of source documents into a Rich Multi-media format for the plurality of users as

taught by Zhu in Pizano's invention in order to enable a plurality of users to collaborate the various different types of documents (Zhu: page 1, paragraphs 8-9).

However, the combined method of Pizano-Zhu does not explicitly teach a method of establishing an instant conferencing communication amongst plurality of users.

In the same field of endeavor, Ludwig teaches a method of establishing an instant conferencing communication amongst plurality of users (Ludwig: fig. 1-2, col. 6, lines 7-41, noted the collaborative multimedia workstation).k

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to integrate the collaborative multimedia workstation as taught by Ludwig in the combined method of Pizano-Zhu's invention in order to greatly facilitate distributed collaboration, in part by replicating the benefits of face-to-face collaboration (Ludwig: col. 3, lines 2-7).

With respect to **claim 18**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 17, wherein said adding the annotation is repeatedly performed by any of said users and results thereof are overlaid and stored (Pizano: col. 5, lines 15-46).

With respect to **claim 19**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 17, wherein said adding the annotation includes selectively annotating one of animation, graphics, voice, or video (Pizano: col. 4, lines 17-26).

With respect to **claim 20**, Pizano teaches all of the claimed limitations except that he does not explicitly teach a method of establishing an instant messaging conference includes establishing voice conferencing.

In the same field of endeavor, Ludwig teaches a method of establishing an instant messaging conference includes establishing voice conferencing (Ludwig: fig. 1-2, col. 6, lines 7-41). Same motivation used in claim 17 applies equally as well to claim 20.

With respect to **claim 21**, Pizano teaches all of the claimed limitations except that he does not explicitly teach a method of establishing instant messaging conference includes establishing video conferencing.

In the same field of endeavor, Ludwig teaches a method of establishing instant messaging conference includes establishing video conferencing (Ludwig: fig. 1-2, col. 6, lines 7-41). Same motivation used in claim 17 applies equally as well to claim 21.

With respect to **claim 22**, Pizano teaches a method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 17, wherein said the collaboration document is created in conformance with needs of said users and applicable confidentiality and security requirements (Pizano: col. 3 line 34 to col. 4 line 6).

In regard to **claim 26** the limitations of this claim are substantially the same as those in claim 17. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claim 17 is used to reject claim 26. By this rationale **claim 26** is rejected.

With respect to **claim 27**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 26, wherein said step of said first user selecting a

document comprises selecting a document from any of a server, a data repository, a shared portal, disk storage, a database, and the Web (Pizano; fig. 1, col. 2, lines 32-60).

With respect to **claim 28**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 26, wherein said step of said first user optionally associating user-entered data with said document page comprises a step of associating any of voice and graphic annotations (Pizano: col. 2, line 61-66, col. 4, lines 17-26).

With respect to **claim 29**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 26, wherein said step of said first user optionally associating user-entered data with said document page comprises a step of associating audio and graphic annotations and a step of streaming said audio synchronously along with said graphic annotations (Pizano: col. 4, lines 17-27 and col. 6, lines 17-28).

With respect to **claim 30**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 26, wherein said step of saving said document page comprises saving said document page in a format requiring only a regular web browser to view said annotated documents (Pizano: col. 5, lines 15-25).

With respect to **claim 31**, Pizano teaches a method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 26, wherein said step of saving said document page comprises saving said document page with a URL (Universal Resource Locator) in an Internet information server (Pizano: col. 4, lines 27-37).

However, Pizano does not explicitly teach a method of establishing instant message communication comprises said first user communicating said URL to said second user using the instant message communication.

In the same field of endeavor, Zhu teaches a method of establishing instant message communication comprises said first user communicating said URL to said second user using the instant message communication (Zhu: page 10, paragraphs 165, 178).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of establishing instant message communication comprises said first user communicating said URL to said second user using the instant message communication as taught by Zhu in the Pizano's invention in order to greatly facilitate distributed collaboration, in part by replicating the benefits of face-to-face collaboration.

With respect to **claim 32**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 26, wherein said step of creating a composite document comprises creating said composite document in conformance with needs of said users and applicable confidentiality and security requirements (Pizano: col. 3 line 34 to col. 4 line 6).

In regard to **claim 34** the limitations of this claim are substantially the same as those in claim 17. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claim 17 is used to reject claim 34. By this rationale **claim 34** is rejected.

7. Claims 37-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pizano et al (Patent no.: US 6,105,055)** in view of **Zhu et al. (PGPUB: US**

**2003/0182375 A1)** and further in view of **Eintracht et al. (Patent no.: US 6,687,878 B1).**

With respect to **claim 37**, the combined method of Pizano-Zhu teaches all of the claimed limitations except that they do not explicitly teach a method of generating and storing a log of collaboration.

In the same field of endeavor, Eintracht teaches a method of generating and storing a log of collaboration (Eintracht: col. 2 lines 25-28, and col. 3, lines 37-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of generating and storing a log of collaboration as taught by Eintracht in the combined method of Pizano-Zhu's invention in order to keep a transaction history of all event for notes (Eintracht: col. 3 line 37-44).

With respect to **claim 38**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 36, wherein said selecting a collaboration mode comprises selecting a single one of said offline, near real time, real time, and disconnected modes (Pizano: col. 3 line 29 to col. 4 line 6).

With respect to **claim 39**, Pizano teaches the method for multimedia collaboration as recited in claim 36, wherein said selecting a collaboration mode comprises selecting a plurality of said offline, near real time, real time, and disconnected modes (Pizano: col. 3 line 29 to col. 4 line 6).

In regard to **claims 40-42** the limitations of these claims are substantially the same as those in claims 37-39. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claims 37-39 is used to reject claims 40-42. By this rationale **claims 40-42** are rejected.

***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 and 6-44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LIN LIU whose telephone number is (571)270-1447. The examiner can normally be reached on.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571)-272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lin Liu/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2445

/Patrice Winder/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2445